

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0637

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, SF
SUBJECT: MOBUTU-EGLIN MEETING

REF: KINSHASA 4917

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU MAY BE REACTING TO SMALL ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN RAND DAILY MAIL JUNE 3. IN IT PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER COLIN EGLIN IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS NOT OPPOSED TO WHITE SOUTH AFRICA BUT A "A SYSTEM THEY SEE AS REJECTION OF BLACKS." EGLIN ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT MOBUTU HAD TOLD HIM PRERESQUISITE TO DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WAS SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

2. LONGER ARTICLE, ALSO BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH EGLIN, APPEARED IN SAME DAY'S CAPE TIMES. IN IT EGLIN QUOTED TO EFFECT THAT HE HAD HELD "RELAXED DISCUSSIONS" WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU, BUT AS THESE WERE OFF THE RECORD, HE COULD ONLY GIVE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE "FEELING IN ZAIRE." ARTICLE GENERALLY THE SAME AS THAT IN RAND DAILY MAIL, THOUGH IT ADDS EGLIN NOTED GREAT CONCERN IN INSHASA ABOUT ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS, AND SENSED STRONG ZAIRE BOND OF SYMPATHY WITH FNLA MOVEMENT OF HOLDEN ROBERTO.

3. COMMENT: IF MOBUTU'S UNDERSTANDING OF GROUND RULES FOR HIS CONVERSATION WITH EGLIN WAS THAT MEETING ITSELF WAS TO BE KEPT SECRET, THEN EGLIN OBVIOUSLY DESERVES TO BE TARGET OF PRESIDENT'S
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IRE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE UNFORUTNATE IF MOBUTU'S ANGER CAUSED

BY EGLIN SEEMINGLY ATTRIBUTING SPECIFIC THOUGHTS TO HIM, AS
IN THE RAND DAILY MAIL ARTICLE, AS THIS MORE PROBABLY A RESULT
OF SLOPPY REPORTING THAN ANY INDISCRETION ON EGLIN'S PART.
EGLIN IS A CAUTIOUS, IF SOMETIMES LOQUACIOUS POLITICIAN, WHO WAS
PROBABLY CAREFUL TO MAKE THE SAME DISCLAIMER ABOUT HIS CON-
VERSATIONS WITH MOBUTU BEING OFF THE RECORD TO ALL REPORTERS.
BOWDLER

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